



'Shoe of the Year'
expected to sell out
See pg 13...

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HALIFAX • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2008 metronews.ca

**Get on
The Party Plane
to Jamaica!**

See inside for details

**101.3
THE BOUNCE**

Search still on
for man who
fell overboard

PETITE RIVIÈRE The coast guard is still searching for a man who fell overboard Sunday night.

The man was reported missing at 6 p.m. after falling overboard from the Rena J. out of Petite Rivière.

The boat, which is a lobster vessel, was half a mile off the coast near Bridgewater.

EDANA ROBITAILLE/
FOR METRO HALIFAX

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**Drive-by nets
10-year term**

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for lovers

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**Bartering is
the new cash**

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Bloom denies
plans to wed

Learning Curve pg 12

Jobs still exist
despite crisis

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Dion waiting in wings

Liberal, NDP leaders sign coalition pact with inked support from Bloc

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion and NDP Leader Jack Layton signed a formal, unprecedented pact to replace the minority Conservatives.

With guaranteed support from the separatist Bloc Québécois for at least 18 months, the Liberal-led coalition wrote to Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean to offer a governing alternative, claiming the Conservatives have lost the confidence of the majority of the House of Commons.

"We are ready to form a new government that will address the best interests of the people," Dion said after inking the agreement to share power with the New Democratic Party.

"It's all about the economy ... it's why we are together, to fight this economic crisis," Dion said.

But Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his Conservatives say they will fight to keep power in the face of the opposition move to force them from office. Two senior cabinet ministers, after huddling with Harper last night, declared the coalition "undemocratic."

Layton reflected on the sight of three political opponents uniting and said that "today is politics being done a little differently ... I think it's likely to produce good government."

Dion, who led Liberals to their worst election showing in a generation on Oct. 14, is poised to become pri-



New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton, from left, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion and Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe take part in a news conference in Ottawa yesterday. The opposition leaders, who signed deals that would pave way for a Liberal-NDP coalition government, said they have written to the Governor General asking her to call on Dion to form a new government.

Unrest growing within Tories?

- One Conservative source said support for Harper in yesterday's caucus meeting was unanimous, but several admit there is rage within party ranks, and much of that fury is directed at Harper.
- Sources told the Toronto Star that Harper ignored advice against including provocative partisan measures in his economic and fiscal update.

me minister under the deal.

The new government would act quickly to deliver a stimulus package, he said, that would include money

for Canada's battered auto sector, faster access to employment insurance and aid for older workers who lose their jobs.

The coalition came together last week over the opposition parties' rejection of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's economic policy statement, which contained little in the way of economic stimulus, but did take away the rights of federal workers to strike, clamped down on pay equity and eliminated public subsidies for political parties. The Tories have since backpedalled on some

measures to try and stave off defeat.

However, the prime minister could decide to prorogue Parliament until January, or ask the Governor General to dissolve Parliament and call an election.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 6 & 8



Watch a video on how economic stimulus plays a crucial role in coalition deal at metronews.ca/Canada

Council eyes Bayers bus lane with 'lessons learned'

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TRANSIT Taking lessons from the Chebucto Road debacle, the city is setting its sights on Bayers Road.

Mayor Peter Kelly said it's just in the planning stages now, but the city is looking at adding a lane to Bayers Road. A new bus

garage on Prospect Road means the municipality needs better, faster ways for buses to get into the peninsula.

"Rather than trying to widen the roadways, I'd like to think a bit different and look at providing a centre lane in the middle of Bayers Road," Kelly said.

The idea is to take out the boulevard piece in the

middle of the road to make room for the bus-only lane. The lane will be used for the morning and afternoon rush hours.

"Making it more effective and efficient for those who use transit," Kelly said.

"Hopefully when we begin the analysis, we'll be able to reduce the impact on neighbourhoods and

"We have lessons learned from (Chebucto) ... We'll see what we can do to make it more inclusive."

Mayor Peter Kelly

mitigate such negative occurrences we unfortunately

experienced for the Chebucto area."

Residents living on Chebucto Road revolted when construction crews began their work widening the road this summer.

"We have lessons learned from there," Kelly said. "We'll see what we can do to make it more inclusive in terms of a communications strategy."

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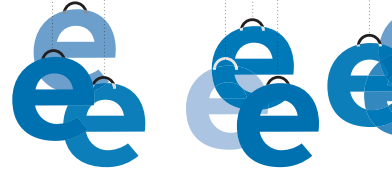
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Axis Mobility
336 Windmill Road
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650 Portland St.
Nova Communications
167 Trider Avenue
Wacky Wheatley's
122 Main St.

DIGBY
Peck Audiotronics
163 Hwy. 303

ELMSDALE
DownEast Communications
269 Hwy. 214

FALL RIVER
DownEast Communications
Fall River Plaza

GLACE BAY
The Rolling Phones
Peoples Mall

GREENWOOD
Aliant Store
Greenwood Mall

HALIFAX
Aliant Stores
Halifax Shopping Centre (upper and lower)
Scotia Square
201 Chain Lake Dr
5475 Spring Garden Road
CBCI Telecom
380 Bedford Highway
DownEast Communications
Maritime Centre
Scotia Square
West End Mall
Quarterback Communications
102 Chain Lake Drive
Wacky Wheatley's
201 Chain Lake Dr.
Wireless Wave
7001 Mumford Rd

LIVERPOOL
MacPhersons
137 Bristol Ave.

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Sobeys, 752 Sackville Dr.
Atlantic Superstore,
745 Sackville Dr.

NEW GLASGOW
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NORTH SYDNEY
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5228 Hwy. 7
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102 Chain Lake Dr.

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32 King St.

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Human-rights lawyers to speak at Dal

Two representatives of the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights group will visit Halifax this Thursday and Friday. Irene Petras and Andrew Makoni will speak at an event at the Dalhousie Law School Friday, at 6 p.m. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local



Got Christmas packages to ship?

If you're shipping to Canada or the U.S. by Purolator, the company suggests getting your package in by Dec. 23 – but by Dec. 12 to 19 if you're shipping to Western Europe and the U.K. If you're going Canada Post, get your parcels in the mail by Dec. 12, and your cards by Dec. 17. **METRO HALIFAX**

60 homeless after blaze in international residence

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People smashed through a window and screamed out for help yesterday morning as fire burned the top floors of a Dalhousie residence building.

"There were four people leaning out their window with smoke billowing out. They were screaming for help, banging on the walls," said Ryan Ritcey, who lives across the street from Peter Green Hall.

Firefighters were able to evacuate the hall before anyone was seriously hurt by the fire, which started around five in the morning.

But many are now forced out of their homes.

Adam Khalfalla was awoken in his 13th-floor apartment by the sound of a woman screaming.

"I came out of my apartment and there was a lot of smoke. I just touched

around until I found the door to the exit," he said.

"It was confusing and almost paralyzing."

Unable to see, Khalfalla made his way to the staircase where the screaming woman grabbed his arm.

"She thought I was her husband, I think. Then I lost her again because of the smoke," he said.

He later saw her downstairs as people were evacuating. The residence houses mostly of international students. Khalfalla is from Libya and plans to stay with friends until he is allowed to return. Some residents were taken to hospital for smoke inhalation, but there were no serious injuries.

About 60 people will be out of their homes for days. Of those, 20 will be displaced for months.

Dalhousie and the Red Cross are looking at options for emergency housing, such as Fenwick Tower.

"It was confusing and almost paralyzing."

Adam Khalfalla



A firefighter responding to the fire call at Peter Green Hall yesterday. The blaze started around 5 a.m.

Lobster price-drop rumour sparks spontaneous strike

PAUL MCLEOD
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Hundreds of fishermen blocked roads and ports to keep lobsters from leaving the province yesterday.

The spontaneous

strike began in the morning as rumours of another dip in the price of lobster spread over ship radios.

"You can't work for \$3.25 (per pound of lobster)," said Digby fisherman Jody Smith.

"We were hoping to hold our lobsters and get a better price, and now they're talking about dropping them below \$3.25. So, it snowballed from there."

Smith estimates about 700 fishermen took part in the strike. Truck loads of lobster were blocked on highways 101 and 103, as well as several ports throughout Digby, Meteghan, Yarmouth and Shelburne.

"We're tired of these buyers manipulating what we do, when we go fishing and when we don't.

(They're) forcing a price on us and making us take it," said Smith.

"We're going to be on strike until we get a better price, and we're going to continue stopping lobsters."

Liberal

Fisheries critic Harold Theriault was at the Digby ferry dock supporting the striking fishermen. He said they've been trying to meet with

the federal fisheries minister for weeks but have been ignored.

"We've been trying for two weeks to get a meeting, to get some kind of response that they recognize the problem in this industry. And all the fishermen hear is about that damn car plant in Windsor, Ont.," said Theriault.

"Well Nova Scotia's fishery is just as important as that car plant."

The fishermen say they plan to continue the strike today.

"We're going to be on strike until we get a better price, and we're going to continue stopping lobsters."

Jody Smith

ShareYourViews

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News in brief

CONSUMERISM Even with a recession, fears unemployment will grow and the fact there's no snow on the ground, many consumers in Cape Breton seem to be in a gifting-giving mood with only 24 days to Christmas. The most important six weeks to the retail industry could result in sales that may surpass the 2007 Christmas shopping season, say some analysts. **METRO HALIFAX**

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch an economic stimulus play a crucial role in coalition deal at **metronews.ca/canada**

Read Allan Small's Investment Perspective on how anticipation of automaker bailout buoys North American markets at **metronews.ca/investing**



Former Tory to vote non-confidence

TRURO Bill Casey, the MP for Cumberland Colchester Musquodoboit Valley, said he will vote non-confidence against his former party.

He's frustrated the Conservative government's recent economic statement failed Canadians, and in particular Nova Scotians, by its lack of strategies to regenerate a healthier economy.

Casey said there are a number of issues he wanted to see in the statement, none of which appeared.

"Smaller businesses are finding it harder and harder to get bank loans. and they are concerned financial help will go to large companies," said Casey.

In addition, Casey was frustrated both the throne speech and economic update stated growth in equalization payments will be capped at the rate of GDP growth, predicted to be 0.3 per cent for the next year.

Casey said an agreement with the government of Nova Scotia, struck last year,

What was missing

- Casey was looking for better employment insurance, education upgrades and more options for those working in dead-end jobs.
- He noted nothing was detailed about the Atlantic Gateway either.

indicated an equalization formula commitment was made to the province including a retroactive 3.5 per cent automatic escalator clause for 15 years until 2020.

Casey was not given an answer by the minister of finance when he questioned the capping initiative last week. "They don't know what they are doing; it's a puzzle to me," he said.

"I will vote non-confidence," Casey added. "And I will be pursuing the cap issue. They wouldn't answer my questions and that makes me uncomfortable."

THE TRURO DAILY NEWS

Sober up on climate: Eco-groups

KAMIA CREELMAN
for Metro Halifax



Canada is an environmental drunk driver and the UN hopes we sober up for this year's climate conference in Poznan, Poland. That was the message at a news conference at the Ecology Action Centre yesterday.

For years, Canada "has been driving drunk on the roads of development, drunk on guilt-free overconsumption," said Sam Littlefair-Wallace, youth member of the Genuine Progress Index for Atlantic Canada.

The eco-groups, scientists and youth activists were adamant that Canada is not meeting its global or local greenhouse obligations.

"Canada is the only country to have accepted a Kyoto target and then decided not to try and meet

"Canada is the only country to have accepted a Kyoto target and then decided not to try and meet it."

Pembina Institute report

it," the Pembina Institute: Sustainable Energy Solutions reported. The 2008 UN climate conference gives Canada "an opportunity to restore its credibility and build goodwill with its negotiation partners."

Nova Scotia, too, needs to stop swerving dangerously from behind the wheel, they said.

Tamara Lorincz of the Nova Scotia Environment Network said the province does not have the climate-proofing infrastructure in place to deal with the floods and droughts climate change will bring.

George Foote of the provincial Environment Department said "the government is developing a number of strategies" to

deal with climate change. Digital mapping of Halifax Harbour, for example, is a large project underway to study the effects of rising sea levels.

Nova Scotians should be worried about coastline municipalities and Annapolis Valley farms, Lorincz said. Not to mention the warming Gulf Stream and Atlantic fisheries.

The fortress of Louisbourg park could be underwater if sea level rises as much as predicted, Gretchen Fitzgerald of Sierra Club Canada said.

Coastal properties are in danger, Fitzgerald said: The retirement home you buy today might be submerged tomorrow. Insurance is a real concern.

Did you miss the Dartmouth tree lighting last weekend? No worries; the IWK is holding its 29th annual tree lighting tomorrow at 5 p.m. Nine-year-old former patient Amaya Black will light the tree, and there'll be a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Nova Scotia tourism going digital

Province boosting online presence, marketing efforts in Atlantic Canada and Europe

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With its eye on Facebook and YouTube, the province unveiled its 2009 tourism plan yesterday.

"Social media will be the next frontier for us," said John Somers of the tourism department, who unveiled the 2009 plan at a tourism-industry conference in Halifax yesterday.

He said the department will monitor online conversations and blogs globally and "cautiously" answer questions.

Visitor centres across the province will get technology upgrades with wireless Internet and flat-panel televisions. Next year, the province will focus more on marketing to other Maritime provinces because people are vacationing closer to home these days.

But Nova Scotia tourism is also going to target London and Germany and are preparing to place ads in the London Underground.

Somers wasn't too concerned about the tough times facing the industry.

"I think we all understand this will put a pinch on consumer spending, on luxuries like travel. It's go-



John Somers with the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage speaks yesterday at an industry conference at the World Trade and Convention Centre.

ing to affect all destinations across the globe," he said. "But it is cyclical and it will pass."

The number of visitors to the province is down so far this year, with 60,000 fewer tourists compared to

the first 10 months of 2007. But tourism revenue isn't expected to drop, just stay the same.

"Cruise-ship visitation is a real bright spot for the Nova Scotia tourism industry," Somers said.

Cruise-ship visitors aren't included in tourism statistics because they don't stay overnight, but Somers said this sector is an "important victory" that contributes \$35 million.

At the end of his speech,

Somers played next year's crop of television ads. They focused on Nova Scotians selling the province in their own words: A lobster fisherman, a parks worker, a resident of the Bay of Fundy, and a soldier work-

Tourism strategy

Factors affecting N.S. tourism:

- High gas prices in the U.S. kept many tourists away.
- Strong Canadian dollar earlier in the year.
- Changes to passport regulations.
- Decline in consumer confidence.
- Canada fell out of the top 10 of most popular countries in the world to visit.

2009 plan highlights:

- Ads will appear in the London Underground.
- A Nova Scotia tourism presence will be increased on Facebook and YouTube, and in blogs.
- Promo events will be held in Calgary and Ottawa.
- Niche markets like music, food, and wine will be explored.
- Nova Scotia will return to the Milwaukee Irish Festival.

ing at the Citadel.

Sharon Touchie with the Glooscap Heritage Centre said she was impressed with the commercials and is optimistic about the year ahead. "There will be a lot more inter-provincial tourism," she said.

Cain handed 10 years in 'spontaneous' shooting

RACHEL BOOMER
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Montana MacKenzie Cain reached out of the passenger side of a moving car, aimed a .32 Smith & Wesson at another moving vehicle, and hit Anthony David just above the eye.

That was April 6, 2007. Yesterday, Cain, 23, was handed a 10-year sentence for attempted

murder, for what was apparently a "spontaneous" attempt to murder David over a dispute, the origins of which are unclear.

"Individuals in this city have to be able to feel that they can conduct their business without being shot at," said Dartmouth provincial court Judge Alanna Murphy.

The consequences were massive for David, a plumber who was driving along Nantucket Avenue

on a Friday night when he was shot.

His dark blue Buick jumped a curb and hit a telephone pole when the bullet hit him. Fragments still remain above his left eye. Today, he can't work, can't drive, and needs 24-hour care.

The crime took place di-

Murphy gave Cain a 13-year sentence, but he got three years' credit for time he spent in jail since the crime.

He would have gotten more credit, but he was convicted of possessing a weapon during a jailhouse attack, and some of his remand time was used as the sentence for that.

Cain was also ordered to give DNA to a national data bank, and was banned from possessing a firearm for life.

His lawyer, Cameron McKeen, said Cain got involved in a criminal lifestyle he hopes to abandon once his sentence is up.

"We love you, Montana," his mom told him as he was led away.

rectly in front of a car with three undercover police officers inside.

They chased down the car to a Dartmouth parking lot. The driver and Cain fled in separate directions, and one officer chased Cain.

When Cain turned around and reached into his waistband, the cop fired five shots — but all five missed.

Cain was arrested, and later pleaded guilty.

"Individuals in this city have to be able to feel that they can conduct their business without being shot at."

Judge Alanna Murphy

ShareYourViews

halifaxletters@metronews.ca

World AIDS Day Raising the ribbon



Mayor Peter Kelly, right, and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy raise the AIDS awareness flag at Grand Parade yesterday. The flag raise marked World AIDS Day, as well as the start of Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week.

News in brief

HEALTH The QEII Foundation is retiring its Head for the Hills event after 15 years. The Hills program has raised more than \$2.1 million throughout the years for cardiac research and

the brain-repair and eye-care centres. Head For the Hills was wrapped up to make room for new events. The QEII Foundation is a non-profit group created to strengthen health care

at the QEII Health Sciences Centre. To date, the foundation has raised more than \$150 million for the centre, the largest health-care centre in the region. **METRO HALIFAX**

Canadian Tire stores saving energy

Six Canadian Tire stores say they've found ways to save more than one million kilowatt hours per year by upgrading their lighting systems, among other things. That's enough power for 120 homes. **METRO HALIFAX**

Queens tourism numbers drop

TRAVEL To no one's surprise, tourism numbers are down in Queens County. "This season was quite a struggle," said Ann Langille, Manager of the South Queens Visitor Information Centre. This year's numbers were down 11 per cent from 2007, on top of the 15 per cent from 2006. Langille said there wasn't one thing that caused the numbers to decline, but rather a combination of several things. Examples she cited were rising gas prices, confusion over new passport laws, the weather and the higher Canadian dollar. **METRO HALIFAX**

Cove Guest Home chooses new CEO

HEALTH The new CEO of the Cove Guest Home says she's taking on the position at a challenging time — not only for long-term care, but the health-care sector as a whole. Cheryl Deveau says she's officially unveiled as the new CEO last week. She had previously worked for the Department of Health for about eight years and has been a registered nurse for 26 years. **METRO HALIFAX**

Parents fear risky toys

Buying Christmas gifts for kids no child's play

Dora the Explorer was one of them. Then Elmo and Cookie Monster were added to the list. Now, even Tinkerbell's wand is to be feared.

With Christmas shopping in full swing, many parents are likely concerned about what toys they should and shouldn't buy their children.

And for good reason. Health Canada recalled 23 products last month, from lead-contaminated children's toys to clothing posing a strangulation risk.

"It seems like every toy on the shelf is made in China," says Melissa MacNeil, who was out Christmas shopping for her three-year-old yesterday. "I don't know what materials the toy is made from and that scares me."

Last year, almost a million toys were recalled by Fisher-Price because their paint contained excessive amounts of lead. The 967,000 preschool toys were manufactured in China before heading to store shelves in Canada and the U.S.

NEW GLASGOW NEWS



Nineteen-month-old Ben MacMillan plays with his toys. Mom Serena Muise says when she's Christmas shopping, she'll be on the lookout for toys that could be harmful to her son.

This holiday season, mothers like Serena Muise are taking extra precaution.

"Recalls are something that do concern me," says the mother of a 19-month-old.

"When I'm buying a toy, I definitely look at where it comes from and whether it contains any small pieces

that could fit into Ben's mouth, potentially choking him.

"There is a few brand names I trust, but even then you can't be sure of what you're getting."

The government recently launched a website that allows the public to search recalled food and chil-

Online list

• Check out Health Canada's website for a list of risky toys at <http://209.217.71.106/PR/home-accueil-e.jsp>.

dren's products deemed unsafe or unhealthy.

TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

News in brief

ACCIDENT Objects in mirror may be closer than they appear. One Halifax woman sure was yesterday when a Metro Transit bus travelling in a bus lane struck her with its mirror. The woman was knocked down and taken to Dartmouth General hospital with minor injuries.

ROBBED A man was attacked and robbed while having a cigarette in front of his own home Sunday evening in the 200 block of Old Sambro Road. The 17-year-old was smoking at the end of his driveway when a vehicle drove up and sprayed him with bear spray. A robber then took the victim's gold chains and fled. The victim didn't get a good look at his assailants.

CRASH A 24-year-old man flipped his car on the ramp leading from Highway 103 to St. Margaret's Bay Road shortly after midnight yesterday. The driver had lost control, flipped and ended in the rocks adjacent to the road. The driver, who escaped with only a swollen eye and cheek, was arrested for impaired driving.

CRASH A 74-year-old driver backed into an 18-year-old woman Sunday in a Future Shop parking lot, breaking her pelvis. Investigators are deciding whether to lay charges.

METRO HALIFAX

AIR CANADA VACATIONS

Occidental Hotels & Resorts



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**Occidental
Grand Cozumel • 4 1/2 ★**
All-Inclusive • Deluxe rm.
Jan. 23 & 30 • 1 wk.
Upgrade to the Royal Club luxury rm. for \$539 per person.

\$959

Taxes & fees: \$302

Cancun/Mayan Riviera
**Occidental
Grand Xcaret • 4 1/2 ★**
All-Inclusive • Deluxe rm.
Feb. 8 & 22 • 1 wk.
Upgrade to the Royal Club luxury rm. for \$369 per person.

\$1359

Taxes & fees: \$282

Punta Cana
**Occidental Grand
Punta Cana • 4 ★**
All-Inclusive • Junior suite
Feb. 7-21 • 1 wk.
Upgrade to the Royal Club luxury rm. for \$300 per person

\$1479

Taxes & fees: \$310

Punta Cana
**Occidental Grand
Punta Cana • 4 ★**
All-Inclusive • Royal Club rm.
Feb. 7-21 • 1 wk.

\$1799

Taxes & fees: \$310

Liberia, Costa Rica via Toronto
**Occidental
Grand Papagayo • 4 1/2 ★**
All-Inclusive
Deluxe rm.
Jan. 8 & 15 • 1 wk.

\$1799

Taxes & fees: \$193

Aruba via Toronto
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All-Inclusive • Royal Club luxury ocean view
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\$2499

Taxes & fees: \$252

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Canada



Nestle faces ad complaint

Environmental groups have filed a misleading-advertising complaint against Nestle disputing claims in an ad by the company that its bottled water has numerous ecological benefits. The groups said Nestle Waters Canada contravened the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards "by making false and misleading statements" in full-page newspaper ads in October. **REUTERS**

NDP ask RCMP to look into tape

Layton wants answers for Conservative transcript of caucus teleconference

The New Democrats have asked the RCMP to investigate a possible breach of the Criminal Code after a caucus teleconference was intercepted by a Conservative MP and released to the media.

The NDP said in a letter to the Mounties that Conservative British Columbia MP John Duncan recorded the conversation when he "was neither the originator nor the intended recipient of the communication," even though an email was mistakenly sent to him inviting him to take part.

"I request that the RCMP initiate an investigation into a possible violation of the Criminal Code of Canada as a result of the interception and recording of the communication," Anne McGrath, chief

A question of ethics

• Margaret Ann Wilkinson, a professor of law at University of Western Ontario, said it may be illegal to listen in on a telephone conversation, but "he got an e-mail that gave him the call-in for this teleconference."

Wilkinson said that information would be "extremely

material" to defending against allegations of wrongdoing.

"If he had that invitation to dial in there's just going to be no question of criminal culpability there," she told Torstar News Service.

Wilkinson said it may have been "inappropriate and unethical," but not illegal.

of staff for NDP Leader Jack Layton, stated in the letter sent out yesterday.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office handed out copies of the recording on Sunday to reporters, claiming the tape showed Layton and Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe had conspired some time ago to topple the Conservative government.

But both parties main-

tain their negotiations did not begin until after the Conservative government released last month's throne speech and that things ramped up after the government's controversial economic update.

In a letter from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, McGrath urged him to stop his office and Duncan from further disseminating the recording, "which

was obtained as a result of the covert participation in the conference call and created unlawfully."

Toronto criminal lawyer Clayton Ruby said what Duncan did was legally wrong since he was not an "intended recipient" as prescribed by law.

"If they include you by mistake, you're not an intended recipient," Ruby said, adding Jack Layton



special authorizations for surreptitious tapings told the Toronto Star that besides the NDP having a "reasonable expectation of privacy," the real question is a moral or ethical one for the Conservative party.

"It's a question of parliamentary ethics," he said.

In recent years, Parliament has been dogged with tape controversies, including allegations that senior Conservatives party officials offered the late Independent MP Chuck Cadman a \$1-million life-insurance policy to side with the Conservatives to bring down the then-prime minister Paul Martin minority Liberal government.

A legal expert on judi-

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadian tourists evacuated from explosive situation

THAILAND Members of a Canadian tour group stranded in Thailand as violence escalated were set to fly out of a naval base this morning, after accepting an offer from the Canadian Embassy in Bangkok.

But only 37 of the 82 travellers in the group agreed to the Canadian government's arrangement for seats to Hong Kong, even though 68 spots were available.

Members of the group, stranded by protests that have shut

down Bangkok's airports, criticized the embassy's delayed response, which they said was too vague and haphazard, leaving little time to consider its implications.

Though critical of the embassy's response, retired NHL broadcaster Ken (Jiggs) McDonald and his wife Marilyn, from Orillia, Ont., accepted seats for \$639 each.

"It (the unrest) could escalate at any time, so Marilyn and I chose the option of going to Hong Kong," McDonald, 70, said by phone from his Bangkok hotel room, noting the embassy's offer came late yesterday in a meeting with a Canadian diplomat.

Hours later, on Tuesday morning local time, McDonald's fears were confirmed as news broke of a grenade explosion at Don Muang airport that killed one protester and wounded 22 others.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"It (the unrest) could escalate at any time."

Ken (Jiggs) McDonald

News in brief

MANITOBA Nathan Boryskavich, 43, of Belmont, Man., died Saturday after being hit with pepper spray by RCMP in The Pas, Man., CBC News Online reports. Boryskavich had been removed from his ex-wife's home and officers managed to arrest him, but police say he became combative. The RCMP said there was a struggle, and police used pepper spray against him.

CALGARY Accused triple-murderer Jeremy Steinke testified in court yesterday and admitted to killing the parents of his then 12-year-old girlfriend, but not her younger brother. Steinke testified in his defence and admitted he broke into the parents house and stabbed them to death, and later witnessed his girlfriend cut her eight-year-old brother's throat in the 2006 Medicine Hat, Alta., murders.

NO COMMENT Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams, who waged an "anybody but Conservative" campaign during October's federal election, is refusing to comment on the attempts at a coalition government in Ottawa, CBC News Online reports. The Tory premier's federal campaign was a successful one, with the Conservatives being shut out of all six ridings in the province.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ottawa Defending the arts



As public delegations began speaking on Ottawa's 2009 city budget, more than 200 people packed into council chambers yesterday morning to protest proposed cuts to arts funding. The nation's capital is proposing a \$4.1-million cut to culture and arts funding as part of overall spending cuts that add up to \$35 million. The proposed budget would also see property taxes hiked by 4.9 per cent.

Inspired by Obama, Liberal party unites behind outgoing leader

COALITION The federal Liberal caucus did an amazing thing yesterday: After all these years, they actually got their act together.

This strange assortment of politicians has spent the better part of this century embroiled in scandal, blood feuds, personal vendettas, money problems and betrayal, so oblivious to all but

"I really believe we're inspired by Barack Obama's leadership."

Scott Brison

themselves, they bickered on camera for the benefit of Conservative campaign commercials.

Until around noon yesterday, when they finally showed they can play well together. By agreeing at a

special caucus meeting to support Stéphane Dion as prime minister of the proposed Liberal-NDP coalition government, they confounded the Conservatives, likely helped their own survival and proved that Cana-

dian politicians too can be inspired by a cause.

Gerard Kennedy (Parkdale-High Park) who worked the phones all weekend on behalf of a coalition document released yesterday, says the "real marvel is that it's in the middle of a leadership race with all the problems that entails and they not on-

ly sucked it up, they showed sympathy for each other."

Adds Nova Scotia Liberal Scott Brison: "I really believe we're inspired by Barack Obama's leadership and the idea you can take a plan and work together across partisan lines. I feel we are being given a great honour (to govern the country)." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Economy no excuse to stall on climate plans, UN delegates say

The economic slowdown is "no excuse" to neglect a fight against global warming that could widen water shortages to half of humanity by 2050, delegates told the opening of UN climate talks in Poland yesterday. **REUTERS**

7

World/Business

India wants Pakistan to act

Neighbour vows to co-operate, denies any involvement

India demanded Pakistan take decisive action over deadly attacks in Mumbai it said were carried out by militants from its nuclear-armed rival, while the West urged co-operation to ease tension.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa both were due in New Delhi, with the militant attacks that killed 183 people in India's financial capital threatening to reverse improving ties with Pakistan.

India's foreign ministry said yesterday it called Pakistan's envoy to New Delhi

Tourism expected to drop in India

• Tourist arrivals in India are set to fall by up to 15 per cent this season after Islamist militants went on a three-day rampage in Mumbai, tour operators said yesterday. The expected drop in

numbers will squeeze a sector already hit by the global financial crisis, they said, following the attacks that killed 183 people and scarred some of the city's most famous landmarks.

and told him attackers, who investigators said had months of commando training in Pakistan, had come from there.

"It was conveyed to the Pakistan high commissioner that Pakistan's actions needed to match the sentiments expressed by its leadership that it wishes to

have a qualitatively new relationship with India," a foreign ministry statement said.

Pakistan, in a report by its official Associated Press of Pakistan, said its high commissioner had gone to the Indian foreign ministry "as per routine" and had not been summoned for a

meeting or been issued with any official demarche.

Investigators said the militants were trained by the Lashkar-e-Taiba group, blamed for a 2001 attack on India's parliament. That event nearly set off the fourth war between the two countries since Pakistan was carved from India in 1947.

Pakistan has vowed to co-operate with India in investigating the militant assault, but yesterday rejected what it called unsubstantiated allegations of complicity in the attacks.

REUTERS

Business

Aeroplan gives Air Canada quick cash

Air Canada said yesterday that Groupe Aeroplan Inc., the operator the airline's frequent flyer plan, has agreed to speed payment for reward tickets issued under the plan, raising \$70 million for the cash-strapped carrier.

Air Canada said in a statement the payment is for reward tickets issued by Aeroplan through May 29, 2009. The airline also said Air Canada and Aeroplan have also agreed to unspecified "commercial terms that are beneficial to both parties."

Air Canada said the deal was a part of a move to improve short and long-term liquidity by "both traditional and nontraditional

means."

Last month the airline said it had \$1.114 billion in cash on hand, not far above the \$1 billion Air Canada said it considered to be a comfortable amount, and it planned to take steps to raise additional money.

"Air Canada has indicated they are looking for new sources of liquidity," said Cameron Doerksen, an analyst at Versant Partners. "This is obviously part of that plan."

Air Canada's class A shares fell 26 cents, or 12 per cent to \$1.94 at midday yesterday on the Toronto Stock Exchange, while Groupe Aeroplan dropped 64 cents to \$7.24. **REUTERS**

More AIDS screening for newborns: UN

HEALTH The United Nations yesterday urged countries around the world to expand screening of newborn infants exposed to the virus that causes AIDS, saying it could save the lives of countless children.

"Without appropriate treatment, half of children with HIV will die from an HIV-related cause by their second birthday," Ann Veneman, executive director of the UN children's fund UNICEF, said about a new UN AIDS report launched in New York on the 20th World AIDS Day.

"Survival rates are up to 75 per cent higher for HIV-positive newborns who are diagnosed and begin treatment within their first 12 weeks," she said.

The report said there was visible progress in the fight against AIDS — some three



France's First Lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy delivers a speech during a news conference yesterday in Paris to announce she will work as an ambassador for the Global Fund to fight AIDS. A UN report released yesterday urged expanded screening of newborns for AIDS, saying it could save lives.

million people worldwide are currently receiving treatment and the number of new infections and AIDS deaths has dropped. But

negative trends remain.

The report — prepared by UNICEF, the UN AIDS program UNAIDS, the World Health Organization, and

the UN Population Fund — warned that pregnant women were not receiving sufficient counselling.

REUTERS

Economy rebounds in third quarter

REPORT Canada's economy grew at a faster clip than expected in the third quarter, just before the financial crisis intensified, as a rebound in goods-producing industries offset weak exports and consumer spending.

Statistics Canada said yesterday that the gross domestic product expanded 1.3 per cent on an annualized basis in the third quarter, beating the market forecast of 1.1 per cent growth, after stagnating in the first half of the year.

REUTERS

In brief

MARKETS The S&P/TSX composite index fell 9.3 per cent, or 864.41 points, yesterday, its deepest net drop ever, as sliding commodity prices, gloomy U.S. economic news and the urge to take profits after six straight days of gains prompted a sell-off that hit every market sector.

SLUMP Asian equities slid earlier today after signs of a deepening global economic slump slammed stocks worldwide the previous day, driving benchmark U.S. Treasury yields to their lowest since the 1950s. Adding to the gloom, the U.S. economy was confirmed to have fallen into a recession nearly a year ago.

REUTERS

News in brief

ITALY Large parts of Venice were flooded yesterday as heavy rains and strong winds lashed the lagoon city, with sea levels at their highest level in 22 years. Ferry and water-taxi services in the city were suspended and Venice's mayor urged people to stay indoors.

ARREST Federal authorities arrested the mayor of Birmingham, Ala., yesterday in a corruption probe surrounding a sewer bond debt that could lead to the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history.

REUTERS

Middle East mixed on Clinton pick

POLITICS U.S. president-elect Barack Obama's choice of Hillary Clinton as secretary of state gladdens Israel, but does not overjoy Arabs and Iranians keen for a new start after eight years of perceived U.S. policy calamities.

Obama named Clinton for the post when he announced his national security team in Chicago yesterday.

Clinton talked tougher than Obama when they were vying to be Democratic presidential candidate, decrying her rival's "naïve"

call for direct talks with foes such as Iran, Syria and North Korea and vowing to "obliterate" Iran if it attacked Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert congratulated Clinton on her appointment. "Senator Clinton is a friend of Israel and the Jewish people," he said.

Palestinians acknowledged the future secretary of state's grasp of the issues that her husband Bill Clinton grappled with during two terms in the White House.

REUTERS

metro's kool

The Best Halifax has to Offer

Metro News and Kool 96.5 want YOU to weigh in on the city's coolest places to eat, party, shop — you name it!

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Comment

PM down for the count

National Report

Lawrence Martin



A week ago Stephen Harper was sitting pretty. He could comfortably look ahead to another long-lasting minority government.

There was no appetite in the opposition ranks to bring his government down.

But Stephen Harper, or Stephen Hubris as he is sometimes called, can't help himself. His brutally partisan and spiteful political instincts have too firm

a grip on his soul. At a time of global economic crisis, at a time when cheap political partisanship should have been forgotten, he attempted a naked political power grab that has sealed his doom.

These types of leaders are usually described as political animals. But that's nowhere near strong enough for this PM. With this guy, there is no sense that politics is the pursuit of enlightened public policy. Rather, it is total Macbethian bloodsport. It's about sucking the political blood out of every opponent in sight. He thrives off it, lives off it. He's Count Stephen, political vampire.

And we can probably say now that the Count has given himself an expiration date.

(Harper) attempted a naked political power grab that has sealed his doom.

For a while he can run and consult his party's dirty-tricks handbook (200 pages) and hide.

He can avoid a confidence vote and the possibility of a weird and wobbly coalition government by proroguing parliament. That would risk derision for Mr. Harper, as in "Look at the coward run."

And if he goes that route, it means he would have to come back with another throne speech early in the year. The opposition could vote him out then or, following that, on his budget. Meanwhile, having made such a colossal mis-

calculation on his economic statement, the daggers in his own party will soon be out for him. There was already uneasiness with him for his failing to win a majority when conditions seemed so right in the last campaign.

His one hope is that the Governor General buys the line that a coalition dependent on a separatist party for survival is not a viable option and calls another election.

Who knows what would happen then, if there was another campaign.

The disgust among Canadians would be incalculable.

Anyone could win, including Count Stephen.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



Views

Protecting arts funding should be a priority in Canada

I attended a rally over a month ago. The goal was to unite the artists of this country and remind them to vote for culture and that together, we have a strong voice, and we need to use it.

The election is over now, but I would like to see us hold on to the momentum



Melanie Doane

and learn a lesson from our Québécois contemporaries. Our prime minister has said that ordinary people are not interested in art.

He lets us know this in spite of his opinion, for he is a music lover and can actually play the piano himself. There's a play I wish Mr. Harper had seen. It's about growing up loving the piano, playing and practising for years only to discover you are not good enough to be a profession-

al musician. 2 Pianos, 4 Hands played to sold-out audiences across Canada and America and continues to be performed on top stages around the world today.

It started with a tiny grant at a tiny theatre, and it's safe to say the investment paid off. Our friends

in la belle province understand this.

We need look no further for a great model to continue to improve the relationship between art, business and government.

Melanie Doane is a Juno award winning singer/songwriter whose new album, A Thousand Night, features Ron Sexsmith, Jim Cuddy and Emilie-Claire Barlow.

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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Barter, trade or get it free

SmartCookies



Smart Cookies are all about living the sweet life without the sacrifice. And in recent months, we have needed to become even more creative in getting what we want for less. So sit up and take note — we've got some savvy suggestions on how to save money on the things you want and, in some cases, even get them for free!

Barter

We all have a special skill or service that we can offer others. Why not barter for other services or products? A family we worked with on our W Network show, Smart Cookies, actually bartered their daughter's entire wedding. And one of our Smart Cookies has bartered her marketing services for free

personal training sessions. Just be sure that when you do barter, it is a fair trade. If you make \$100 an hour and the person you are bartering with does work that is valued at \$25 an hour, be sure that you do not do a one-hour swap — if you do you will be devaluing your work and yourself!

Trade

Check to see if you can get what you are looking for through trading or swapping. There are a number of websites where you can exchange things you already own, and no longer want, for things you do want. The basic premise on which these sites are based is that you provide things you want to get rid of to other people in exchange for points. With your points you purchase items that you might want from other individuals. Items up for swapping include books, DVDs, games and baby items. One of our favourites for books is bookmooch.com. Also, check out Craigslist.com,

which offers swapping services and posts information about swap meets in your area.

Since coming together as a money group, we have saved thousands of dollars on clothes and other items. Not only do we share our stuff but we swap as well. Once a season, we get together with our friends and swap everything from clothes to beauty products that we no longer need. Not only do you save money, but it is also a great way to get together with girlfriends without spending a ton of cash.

On the House

Who said you can't get anything for free? There are heaps of things that people no longer want but are willing to give away in the interest of recycling and reusing.

Check out Craigslist.com and freecycle.ca for things you might be looking for. We found a brand new medium-sized pet carrier (perfect for our pampered pooch Lucy), a beautiful wine rack and even a new

couch!

Also, if you are a new parent, tons of companies compete for your business by offering free samples, promotional packages and goodies. Check out freeparentstuff.ca.

For more ways to save, check out smartcookies.com or pick up a copy of our book Smart Cookies' Guide to Making More Dough.

If you have questions or suggestions for the Smart Cookies, e-mail us at smartcookies@metronews.ca.

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

The week's column gives a market commentary for the past two weeks. Visit metronews.ca

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Do the gains/losses dance

Q Two months ago, I sold a condo for a substantial gain.

The condo was rented for the past two years. With a decline in stock prices, this is a good opportunity to sell some losers to reduce my condo gains. These are solid stocks, so I will have my wife re-purchase them the next day to keep in my portfolio. I'm in the market for the long term.

What percentage of my gains are taxed and losses deductible?

Manny

A Generally, the profits from the sale of real estate are taxed as capital gains. Fifty per cent of the gains are taxed at your marginal tax rate. Capital gains can be reduced with capital losses from other investments such as stocks. Investors can use the sale of shares as a year-end tax-planning strategy to either reduce gains or utilize car-

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcg@yahoo.ca

ry-forward losses. Don't wait until Dec. 31; trades are generally settled in five business days.

However, individuals should consult with their financial advisor. The sale of shares that result in a loss when the individual or spouse (or affiliated person) purchases the same shares within 30 days prior to or subsequent to the sale would be considered a "superficial loss." CRA will disallow the deduction and add the loss to the cost base of repurchased shares.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, provides professional accounting and taxation solutions: choochonghcg@yahoo.ca.

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For more details, including all the prizes and how to enter, go to www.yourquest.ca.

Enter soon, the contest ends January 30, 2009.

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Sports



Penn State mascot arrested

The Penn State University student who plays the Nittany Lion mascot was arrested on a DUI charge and his status for the Rose Bowl is in doubt, police and school officials said. James Sheep was pulled over by police on Nov. 22, hours before Penn State's 49-18 win over Michigan State, university police Capt. Bill Moerschbacher said yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Burress posts \$100K in bail

NFL New York Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress faced charges of criminal possession of a handgun yesterday following an apparent accidental shooting of himself in a Manhattan nightclub, prosecutors said. Burress was not asked to enter a plea at Manhattan Criminal Court and posted bail of \$100,000 US. The 31-year-old faces two counts of criminal possession of a weapon, including possession of a loaded weapon with the intent to use it unlawfully, prosecutors said.

REUTERS

Sports in brief

HOCKEY Quebec police say former NHL all-star Hubert (Pit) Martin died Sunday after his snowmobile plunged into an icy lake. Martin, who was 64, played 1,101 NHL games for Detroit, Boston, Chicago and Vancouver. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Changes looming in Edmonton

YorkReport

Marty York



marty.york@metronews.ca

Brace yourself for a major shakeup involving the Edmonton Oilers. NHL sources told Metro yesterday the Oilers are poised to complete a significant trade and/or fire coach **Craig MacTavish**, likely this week.

"They (the Oilers) have come nowhere close to what they expected to be this season, and (club chief) **Kevin Lowe** is extremely annoyed," an NHL source said. "Kevin's just about ready to pull the trigger."

The Oilers were supposed to be a contender this season.

Odds makers reckoned they'd likely qualify for the playoffs. Yet they've turned out to be inconsistent, at best, and are below .500.

Pre-season prognostications predicting prolific production from the Oilers' forwards are proving false and it's actually defencemen leading the team in scoring.

Edmonton players are bracing themselves for changes, but defenceman **Sheldon Souray** hopes MacTavish isn't affected.

"It's not Mac's fault," Souray said. "It's up to the guys here to bring a little more and be a little more accountable for our production."

MacTavish is in his eighth season as the Oilers' coach. Only two of his counterparts — the Buffalo Sabres' **Lindy Ruff** (11 seasons) and the Nashville Predators' **Barry Trotz** (10) — have coached their NHL teams longer than MacTavish.

From the hard-to-believe department comes information of a mind-boggling bidding war for pitcher **A.J. Burnett**, who is 31, injury-prone and has started 30 games in a season only twice.

The Blue Jays would like to re-sign the right-hander, but they won't come close to matching offers made by the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox, Baltimore Orioles, Atlanta Braves and Philadelphia Phillies.

When all's said and

done, Burnett will collect a guaranteed \$85- to \$90-million US for five seasons. Unbelievable, eh?

Syndicated baseball columnist **Tracy Ringolsby** listed Jays general manager **J.P. Ricciardi** as one of his top turkeys for a U.S. Thanksgiving Day piece last week.

Why?

"For continuing to moan about the struggles of competing in a division that includes the free-spending Yankees and Red Sox while Tampa Bay, with the second-lowest payroll, was winning the American League East."

The Milwaukee Brewers are dumping Quebec-born reliever **Eric Gagne**, who compiled a 5.44 earned-run average last season and lost the closer's role in May... The Red

Sox are adding two quality Japanese pitchers — 22-year-old **Junichi Tazawa** and 33-year-old **Kenji Kawakami** ... Boston's also hot to trot after star first baseman **Mark Teixeira** ... And the Jays still covet slugger **Milton Bradley**, although they have yet to talk dollars with him — and he's leaning toward a deal with the Rays.

Talk Heat-ing up

• The Toronto Raptors, desperately attempting to strengthen their bench, are talking trade. NBA sources tell Metro's Marty York that Raps chief Bryan Colangelo spent part of the past week-end examining potential deals with Miami Heat counterpart Pat Riley, among others.

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Bowers playing well in Dayton

Halifax's Justin Bowers is off to a great start to his pro hockey career. The one-time Halifax Mooseheads forward is third in East Coast Hockey League rookie scoring with the Dayton Bombers with 21 points in 19 games. Bowers, 23, left the St. Thomas Tommies in the summer after two seasons. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

sports 11

Huskies No. 1 at break despite ups, downs

MATTHEW WUEST
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The Saint Mary's Huskies didn't start the AUS men's hockey season how they wanted to. They didn't go into the holiday break how they wanted to, either.

Yet the Huskies — who lost three of their first five games and were smacked 6-1 by the St. Francis Xavier X-Men on Saturday night — have found a way to post a 10-5 record and are locked in a three-way tie for first overall.

"We feel good," said Huskies forward Justin Munden, a Halifax native.

"We went through some adversity at the



Justin Munden and the Huskies men's hockey team are confident going into the second half of the season.

start of the season, but we started clicking together well. We're where we want to be going into Christmas, that's for sure."

The Huskies, who don't play again until Jan. 7, are tied atop the AUS with the defending champion New Brunswick Varsity Reds and the Moncton Aigles Bleus. The engine that drives the Huskies is a prolific offence. They

have a conference-best 68 goals (an average of more than 4.5 per game) and a devastating power play that operates at a 30.1 per cent clip with 31 goals on 103 attempts.

Captain Marc Rancourt leads the league in scoring with 29 points in 15 games, while brothers Scott and Andrew Hotham are tied for the lead among defencemen with 22 points. Cam Fer-

gus and Cody Thornton complete the top unit.

"It's the second year that unit's been together

and they really know each other well," said Munden, a former Halifax Mooseheads forward who has 13

points in 15 games. "Any one of those guys can put the puck in the net."

The Huskies want to work on eliminating sluggish starts, something that hurt them in their five losses.

They also want to be more disciplined, since they've given opponents a conference-high 113 power-play opportunities.

They're also awaiting the second-half return of head coach Trevor Stienburg, who has been out all year with an illness.

"We still have some work to do, but we know what we're capable of doing," the 22-year-old Munden said. "We have to take a good break here and sharpen up all aspects of our game for the second half ... That's when every game counts."

AUS standings

	W	L	O/S	PTS
Saint Mary's	10	5	0	20
U.N.B.	9	2	2	20
Moncton	9	3	2	20
P.E.I.	8	5	2	18
Acadia	8	4	1	17
St. F.X.	7	5	2	16
St. Thomas	2	9	3	7
Dalhousie	3	11	0	6

Parsons, three others invited to Rainmen camp

MATTHEW WUEST
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PBL Demar Parsons is among four locals who will get an extended audition with the Halifax Rainmen.

The Premier Basketball League team held an open tryout last night at Citadel High School, and Parsons, a 6-foot-3 former Dartmouth Spartans star, made an impression.

He, along with Mark Ross, Tremel Beals and Nathan Clark, will be invited to the Rainmen's main training camp, starting today at Citadel and King's College courts.

"He's one of those kids who you just say, 'Man, if you had got ahold of him in Grade 8, he could have played at the highest level.'"

Andre Levingston

Parsons, a provincial team member through the youth ranks, graduated from high school in 2006 but didn't have the grades to play university ball, Levingston said.

"He's one of those kids who you just say, 'Man, if

you had got ahold of him in Grade 8, he could have played at the highest level," said Rainmen owner Andre Levingston.

"He's freaky athletic, but he's got to learn the game." Ross is a former Saint Mary's Huskies point guard; Beals is a former Cole Harbour Cavaliers guard; and the 6-foot-6 Clark once played for the P.E.I. Panthers. "We're looking to see how they improve day-to-day, see how they can compete with our guys," Levingston said.

Although camp starts today, Levingston said a number of players won't be on the court due to airline delays.

SCOREBOARD

QMJHL					Petersen, Sha 13 28 41					Toronto at San Jose					Toronto at Denver				
STANDINGS					Petit, BaC 10 31 41					TOMORROW'S GAMES					Utah at Sacramento				
ATLANTIC DIVISION					Riendeau, Dru 19 20 39					Atlanta at Ottawa					TOMORROW'S GAMES				
	W	L	OL	PTS	Jezeqou, Bat 15 24 39					Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers					Memphis at Atlanta				
Moncton	21	2	4	46	Hoffman, Dru 16 22 38					St. Louis at Minnesota					Minnesota at Orlando				
Cape Breton	19	8	2	40	Mahbod, Dru 16 22 38					Anaheim at Chicago					New York at Cleveland				
Saint John	17	13	2	36						Dallas at Edmonton					L.A. Lakers at Philadelphia				
Bathurst	12	14	6	30											Portland at Washington				
P.E.I.	11	15	5	27											Oklahoma City at Charlotte				
HALIFAX	9	19	2	20											Indiana at Boston				
TONIGHT'S GAMES					NHL					YESTERDAY'S RESULTS					NBA				
Lewiston at Rimouski					Columbus 3 Vancouver 2					YESTERDAY'S RESULTS					Boston 107 Orlando 88				
Gatineau at Rouyn-Noranda					Detroit 2 Anaheim 1					Charlotte 100 Minnesota 90					Phoenix at New Orleans				
					Nashville 2 Buffalo 0					Miami at Golden State					L.A. Clippers at Houston				
					Colorado 6 Minnesota 5					TONIGHT'S GAMES					Miami at Utah				
					Toronto at Los Angeles					L.A. Lakers at Indiana					NFL				
SCORING					Tampa Bay at Philadelphia					Washington at New Jersey					YESTERDAY'S RESULT				
G	A	P			Florida at Washington					Portland at New York					Houston 30 Jacksonville 17				
L. McNicoll, Sha	20	30	50		Atlanta at Montreal					Detroit at San Antonio									
Masse, Dru	20	24	44		Dallas at Calgary					Philadelphia at Chicago									
Pistilli, Sha	22	19	41		Los Angeles at Phoenix					L.A. Clippers at Dallas									
Doyle, PEI	14	27	41																



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Learning Curve

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

No shame in getting help

Plenty of help available for those students having trouble succeeding in school

JON TATTRE
for Metro Canada



Students whose intelligence and work ethic saw them ace high school may crash and burn when they hit university. They may be in the wrong course, overwhelmed by the huge change in lifestyle, or just studying wrong — but help is at hand.

Marsha Padfield is the head of the University of Alberta's Fresh Start program. It's designed for students who have failed first year.

"We spend quite a lot of time figuring out what went wrong," Padfield says. "That may be in their personal life, may be emotional or physical things, may be lack of academic skills, wrong faculty — it's an extensive process."

Once they've figured out

what went wrong they start to put it right. Padfield says a lack of academic skills are often the root of the problem, especially for bright students.

"They have to have study skills and they haven't developed them," she says. "We say that it's not time management, it's learning how to manage yourself within time. You can't change the time," she laughs. "You need to make better choices. You cannot party every night."

Fresh Start, which turns around an impressive 60 per cent of the students it works with, makes sure people are studying what they want, not what their parents want. In some cases, a trade school is a better fit for the student's ambitions.

"Some of it is basic, smack-between-the-eye-balls stuff: You can't work 30 hours a week and take a

"You can't work 30 hours a week and take a full-time course load. I don't care who you are, you can't do it."

Marsha Padfield

full-time course load. I don't care who you are, you can't do it," Padfield says.

Nellie Perret, a counselor at the University of Toronto, agrees.

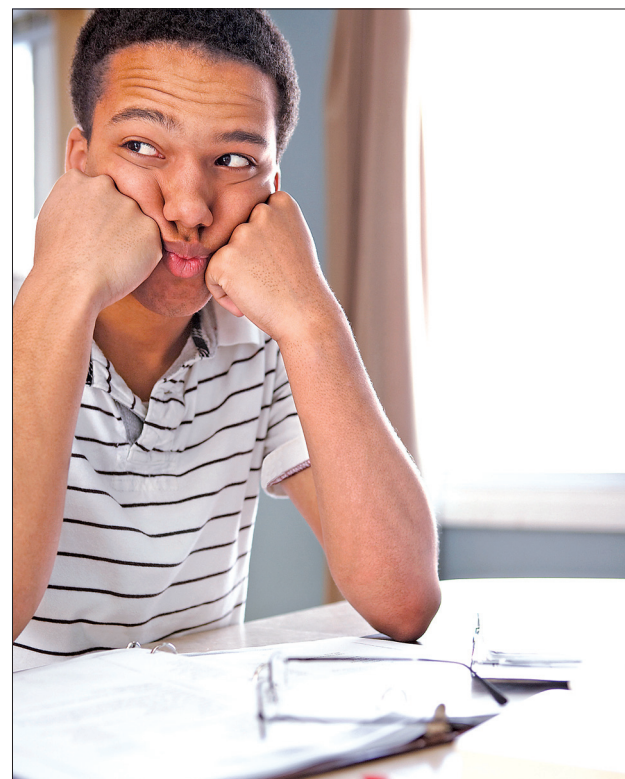
Get help, she says. There's no shame in sitting down with a counsellor or registrar and making sure you're in the right place and putting in enough work. But work smart, not just hard.

"The (study) strategies they've used in the past aren't necessarily going to serve them well here," she

explains. Some high school students excelled by attending every class and reading every textbook. They won't have time to do that at university, so students have to study strategically.

If the test is multiple choice, study with a greater attention to facts and details. If it's essay exams, focus on the big picture. If the lecturer teaches largely out of the book, then perhaps you don't need to read it as closely and can devote that time to other areas.

Adrenaline junkies may find that the last minute at university is not as long as it was in high school. "There's just way too much material to process and big, cumulative exams. They've got to learn how to pace themselves," Perret says. "It's about being a little more savvy about university culture."



University students have to study strategically, as they won't have time to attend every class and read every textbook, experts say.

Job opportunities exist despite economic climate

ERIC EMIN WOOD
for Metro Canada



As they prepare for their final term of university, soon-to-be graduates can be for-

given for fearing their job prospects are dim, given the current economic climate. But many employment services representatives say the opportunities haven't changed nearly as much as

students might think.

Campus job postings "have changed slightly," says Ian Ingles, employment services co-ordinator with Ryerson University's career centre. "But using

that as a gauge of what's happening, we haven't seen a big downturn in the number of employers coming on campus to recruit. We had three job fairs this fall, and they were all about the

same as last year."

Like many schools, Ryerson has two sets of fairs: Three in the fall term and three in the winter.

"It's still too early to tell" if attendance at the winter fairs will be lower than last year, says Ingles. But for now, companies such as Nortel, which recently implemented a hiring freeze despite "recruiting at the engineering, science and hi-tech fair back in September," are the exception, he says.

Dalhousie University has experienced its "busiest, most robust year ever," says Laura Addicott, director of the school's career services centre. "The activity has been outstanding in terms of the quality and quantity of opportunities for today's graduating students," she says.

Major employers include the public sector — "the federal government has really turned itself into a major recruiter on university campuses," Addicott says — the mining sector, and financial and technology companies.

Like Ingles, Addicott says it's difficult to measure the current effects of the downturn, since recruitment at university campuses is concentrated in the fall term.

At the University of Alberta, the number of job postings are below 2007 levels, but above 2006 levels, says Carey Castillo, manager of employer relations at the university's career centre — and 2007 "was a very strange year. Employers were under a lot of pressure to hire people," she says.

Certain sectors, such as finance, have been affected, Castillo says. "We have talked to organizations who maybe planned to hire 100 this year and have scaled it back to 70. But it doesn't mean that they're not hiring anybody," she says.

Castillo says one factor remains constant regardless of the economic climate: If companies don't hire now, then in the future when they need experienced workers, they're not going to exist.

"It's in their interest to maintain what hiring they possibly can," she says.

Family + Relationships

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HOW TO TURN HIM ON

Men can be mysterious creatures, especially when it comes to what turns them on. Wouldn't it be great to know exactly what gets him hot? Read what real men say gets them in the mood.

Getting all hot and bothered starts with just getting together. Let your man know when the time is right and he'll be more than happy to skip out on a boys night out in exchange for what you have in mind.

Ask your guy to tell you where he likes

to be touched. There are more than just the obvious hotspots. Even better, try to figure it out together.

Being confident in bed is sexy. Don't force something you're not comfortable with. Stick with what feels right and it'll enhance the mood for the both of you.



(continued online...)

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Learning Curve is a monthly feature that focuses on education and student life.

learning curve **13**



Introduction to Digital Movie Making is being offered at NSCAD next month.

Focus on aspiring filmmakers

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada



Budding movie makers have a chance to tap into their inner Oliver Stones with a NSCAD course that teaches students how to make high-quality digital films at home.

Introduction to Digital Movie Making, which is being offered by the Halifax university for the January to March term, shows students how to make a movie from start to finish, including planning, storyboarding and creating a script.

It also deals with the technical sides of production, such as how to use a camera and lighting techniques. Students pull the results together on Macs.

Instructor Clair Hodge says the course attracts a

range of students, and therefore, films.

"A lot of our students try to make films that emulate what they would see on TV or in the cinema, but there's also a fair amount of documentaries," the Halifax artist says.

The topics go from the global to the very personal — sometimes in the same student.

"I had a student who was working on a piece about work he was doing in Sudan. He was working for an NGO and so had taken a lot of footage in villages there," Hodge says. "But he had also been working on a piece about his wife giving birth to his second child."

Another line of students are professionals who want to make movies for their work. One teacher wanted to make videos to

help the kids at her school learn.

"She was looking to teach about schoolyard rules and regulations. Others are trying to come up with tools for ESL (English as a Second Language). The sky's the limit."

The advantages of digital filmmaking are price and convenience. A decent film camera is huge and costs "a crazy amount of money," Hodge says. Digital cameras are affordable and the footage can be uploaded to a computer for easy, at-home editing.

Hodge is working on her Master's in Fine Arts at NSCAD and has been a video artist for five years. She also has a degree in music and so knows the importance of sound in film. To learn more, go to nscad.ns.ca or call 494-8185.



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Health



Squashing high blood pressure

Getting more potassium may lower the risk of developing high blood pressure and decrease blood pressure in people who already have it. Winter squash is a rich source: One cup (250 mL) of hubbard squash, for instance, provides about 16 per cent of what you need each day.

BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

Lovers in a difficult time

It seems nothing can escape the effects of the economic crisis, even our love lives. According to Paul A. Falzone, CEO of worldwide dating services Together Dating, *togetherdating.com*, and The Right One, *therightone.com*, the demand for professional matchmaking apparently remains the same.

The one difference? More customers are paying on credit, he says. And they're taking the term "cheap date" literally.

Singles are using less cash and going out on more creative, yet inexpensive, dates,

says Falzone. From catching a show at a community theatre instead of buying tickets for a play at a major theatre, to choosing quaint, less-expensive restaurants, singles are finding many ways to save money yet still have a great time on a date.

"It really isn't about where you go, what you do or how much money you spend on a date. It's about

who you're with," says Falzone.

Other cheap-date ideas? Go to an art opening. You usually get free booze and the visuals give you and your date something to talk about.

Ice-skating is cheap but romantic and fun. And you have an excuse to keep each other warm.

Sex is fun and usually free. All you need is a willing partner. Of course, if you've been with the same partner for a while, you might want to spice things up.

But who can afford to shell out \$300 for the designer sex toys currently on the market? Luckily, a trip to the Dollar Store can net you

some nifty sexual enhancers.

Like a feather duster, which is fun for tickling and teasing. Toss on an apron, some high heels and nothing else and you can play maid. Buy a toy Sheriff's kit and arrest your sweetie for indecent exposure. Grab a blindfold and a couple of silk scarves to use as ankle and/or wrist restraints for a night of cheap, mildly kinky fun.

Find a sexy shot of your



Pick up a feather duster at the Dollar Store, and you've got yourself a cost-effective prop for livening up sex.

sweetheart and glue it to a square piece of cardboard. Cut out a cardboard arrow and attach it with a pronged paper fastener so you can spin the arrow.

Buy sticky dots and tell your partner to place the dots on the image wherever they'd like you to get busy. Spin the arrow and toss dice to determine how many minutes you must spend on the spot where the arrow lands.

Or simply buy some bubble-blowing liquid, light a few scented candles, blow bubbles, feed each other cheap chocolate (two bars for a buck!) and assure one another that you will get through this ... together.

The J Spot

Josey Vogels

Sex talk with Josey



Debunking myths about HIV/AIDS

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada



Haven't heard much about HIV/AIDS lately? The disease is definitely still with us. "I think there's a misconception that the HIV/AIDS problem has gone away in Canada. And that is not the case," says Dr. Ann Stewart, Medical Director at Casey House in Toronto.

Every two hours, someone in Canada is infected with HIV. In fact, Ontario has experienced a shocking 75 per cent increase in HIV incidence rates in the last 10 years.

More and more of those contracting the virus are women and young people. And while medications have given many a chance to live their lives, doctors are starting to see premature aging in those who have been taking meds for a long time.

With the commemoration of World AIDS Day yesterday, Casey House and the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation would like to blast some common myths about HIV. **MYTH:** I won't get HIV because I'm straight and I don't use IV drugs.

FACT: Most people who become infected with HIV thought it couldn't happen to them.

Although gay men and drug users are most at risk for contracting HIV, nearly



Contracting HIV from touching, hugging or kissing is a myth. It can only be transmitted through semen, vaginal fluid, blood or breast milk.

30 per cent of new infections in Canada now happen in women.

MYTH: You can catch HIV from mosquito bites, or from touching, hugging or kissing someone who is HIV positive.

FACT: Only semen, vaginal fluid, blood or breast milk transmit HIV.

MYTH: I don't feel sick, therefore I don't have HIV. **FACT:** You can have HIV and be symptom-free for many years. In fact, you may be extremely infectious.

MYTH: You can't get HIV from someone who is getting treatment.

FACT: Although treatment can impact the risk of in-

fection, HIV can still be transmitted through unprotected sex with someone who is receiving treatment.

MYTH: A diagnosis of HIV is a death sentence.

FACT: People with HIV are living longer than ever before, but they remain vulnerable to developing AIDS and other serious diseases such as opportunistic cancers, heart disease, osteoporosis and diabetes, and must adhere to careful treatment (and its negative side effects) for the rest of their lives.

MYTH: If I get HIV, I can be cured with treatment.

FACT: There is no cure for HIV/AIDS.

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Corbett hopeful for Sex sequel

Sex And The City star John Corbett is keen to reprise his role in the hit TV show for a sequel to this year's hit movie. Corbett reportedly hopes his character will be able to steal Carrie back from Mr. Big. [IMDB.COM](#)

15

Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA



Streep honours

Meryl Streep is up for awards in her roles in *Doubt* and *Mamma Mia!* at the 13th annual Satellite Awards in Los Angeles Dec. 14.

[IMDB.COM](#)

Strippers and honesty

JIM REYNO
Metro Canada



T-Pain's got a G-string thing, and he's not afraid to show it.

The 24-year-old hip-hop/R&B star pours his heart and his life into his music. He doesn't hide the facts from anybody — especially his wife.

And the fact is, T-Pain enjoys strippers. He had a hit with *I'm N Luv (Wit a Stripper)* two years ago. On his new album, *Thr33 Ringz*, he wrote the song *Long Lap Dance* to ensure clients get their money's worth at the club.

So is an appreciation of

exotic dancers something a married man with two children — and another on the way — should be revealing? Sure!

"My wife is usually in the strip club with me," T-Pain said in a recent interview in Toronto. "I take her where I go. Everything I talk about, she knows. She knows the exact situation sometimes. She knows what stripper I was talking about because she probably got a dance from her, too."

That heart-on (the sleeve, I mean) approach to music permeates *Thr33 Ringz*, which features plenty of catchy hooks, guest stars and strong vocals from T-



T-Pain prides his latest album *Thr33 Ringz* on its honesty.

Pain.

And he doesn't just sing about strippers. The understated, acoustic *Keep Going* is a shout out to the support he's received from wife Amber and the rest of his family.

T-Pain, born Faheem Rasheed Najm in Tallahassee, Fla., has already exceed-

ed his career expectations by releasing *Thr33 Ringz* — his third CD.

"I didn't think I was going to come this far at all, you know what I'm saying?" said T-Pain, sporting his trademark shades and top hat at the Royal York. "I thought I was going to have one album and people

would hate me after that."

Far from it. Aside from his own projects, T-Pain is a frequent guest on other people's recordings, Chris Brown's *Kiss Kiss* and R. Kelly's *I'm a Flirt (Remix)* among the best known.

But whether performing on someone else's recording date or his own, T-Pain approaches the material the same way.

"Just be honest with it," he said. "People want to know you. As an artist, people really want to get to know me. That's why people feel like they know me before they meet me, because I put my whole life on my albums."

Straight up — no apologies.

"It's honesty, man," T-Pain said. "That's why no one can blackmail me."

In brief

YAHOO Barack Obama's presidential victory got more clicks than any other story on yahoo.com



Britney Spears

this year, but the most searched term was "Britney Spears," Yahoo Inc reported on Monday. In the top 10 searches, Spears — the most popular search term for seven of the past eight years — was followed by World Wrestling Entertainment and then by Obama, Yahoo said.

MOVIES It's Bond once again on the overseas circuit as *Quantum of Solace* dominated the international box office for the fifth consecutive weekend. The Sony/MGM action feature tallied \$20.1 million from 8,755 screens in 73 markets and raised its foreign gross to \$340.1 million. It is \$92 million away from overtaking 2006's *Casino Royale* as the biggest foreign grosser of the 22-title Bond series.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Slumdog Millionaire scooped three top prizes at the British Independent Film Awards in London on the weekend. The film won the Best Director prize for Danny Boyle, Best Newcomer for teen actor Dev Patel and the Best Film award. **IMDB.COM**

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Boy George admits handcuffing escort

Singer Boy George admitted to police that he handcuffed a male escort to his bed and threatened him, but was not going to kill him, a British court heard yesterday at his trial on false imprisonment charges.

Jurors at the trial of the former Culture Club frontman, being tried under his real name George O'Dowd, were played a recording of his police interview in April 2007.

"I absolutely admit I had him in the handcuffs, so he wouldn't go anywhere while I checked the computer. I certainly wasn't going to kill him, that's hardly going to do my career any good is it?" he told police.

O'Dowd, 47, met Norwegian male escort Audun Carlsen over the Internet and the pair arranged to meet for a pornographic photo shoot.

But the relationship turned sour after O'Dowd became suspicious that

Carlsen was hacking into his computer and stealing the photos to use on his website.

Carlsen has accused O'Dowd of chaining him up on their second meeting at the singer's east London flat and beating him with a chain.

O'Dowd admitted to police that he had hit Carlsen before, but only through choice.

"You can't spank anyone if they don't want you to," he said, asserting that on the occasion in question he had not



"I certainly wasn't going to kill him, that's hardly going to do my career any good is it?"

Singer Boy George

punched or assaulted the escort.

"Those are serious handcuffs, there was no reason to beat him up when I'd put him in those," he said.

"I was just so angry ... I just wanted to make sure he did not leave my house."

O'Dowd denies the charge of false imprisonment.

REUTERS

Madonna's Sticky and Sweet tour rakes in \$95M and counting

MONEY The 28 dates on Madonna's just-concluded North American jaunt grossed about \$91.5 million and moved about 550,000 tickets, according to tour producer Arthur Fogel, chairman of global music for Live Nation.

The venerable performer wrapped the North American leg of her Sticky & Sweet tour last week in front of 50,000 people at Dolphin Stadium in Miami. She then headed to Mexico City for shows on the weekend.

Counting her European run, Madonna is at about \$207.5 million in ticket

sales and on a pace to hit about \$282 million when the Mexico/South America leg of the tour wraps.

REUTERS

Making records

- Counting European and North American sales. Madonna's tour is on track to make Sticky & Sweet the top-grossing tour ever by a female artist or solo artist.
- The tour, supporting her album Hard Candy, concludes with three nights Dec. 18-21 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

REUTERS

Queen hit joins Hall of Fame

MUSIC Queen's 1977 single We are the Champions/We Will Rock You is among 28 classic recordings that have been newly inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame, BBC News Online reports.

Others include the Police's 1983 album Synchronicity, Stevie Wonder's For Once in My Life and the soundtrack for the

film The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.

The Hall Of Fame will form part of the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles which opens on Saturday. Created in 1973, the collection now includes 826 titles. New submissions to the Grammy museum are chosen annually by a special member committee of experts. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Entertainment in brief

MUSIC Creed is hammering out details for a lucrative 2009 reunion tour, sources tell Billboard. The Scott Stapp-led hard rock group, which was one of the top sellers of the

past decade, has not performed since a rancorous split in June 2004.

PEOPLE Ivana Trump, ex-wife of property mogul Donald

Trump, said yesterday she split from her fourth husband three months ago but kept it quiet to avoid ruining his chances on the Italian version of Survivor. After dating for about six

years, Trump, 59, married Rossano Rubicondi, 36, in a lavish ceremony in April at Donald Trump's Palm Beach, Fla., estate.

REUTERS

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IN THEATRES NOVEMBER

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No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Contest open to Nova Scotia residents of legal age. Contest closes December 3 at midnight. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. Winners will be notified by email.



Fashion designer Giorgio Armani has had his multimillion-dollar offer to purchase top London, England, hotel The Berkeley rejected. **IMDB.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Hubby set to leave Winehouse

MARRIAGE Amy Winehouse's husband says he wants out of their marriage — for her sake, People.com reports.

"I have to let her go to save her life," Blake Fielder-Civil — who is currently in rehab after being released from jail in November — told a British newspaper Sunday. "I am not abandoning her. I am doing this out of love."

During the interview with the News of the World, Fielder-

Civil also admitted that he "introduced" the 25-year-old Winehouse to crack and heroin.

The former video production assistant — who wed Winehouse in 2007 — denies being after the singer's money and says he will not "fight her for anything."

Winehouse's U.K. spokesman, Chris Goodman, says he is un-

aware of anything formal underway to end the marriage.

Winehouse has not visited her husband at the rehab centre where he was sent as a condition of his early release. He spent almost a year behind bars after pleading guilty to charges of assault and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Meanwhile, Goodman tells People that the singer remains hospitalized at a London clinic and is "doing fine." The rep says she is being seen as part of her ongoing medical care.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Cruise admits to erratic behaviour

PEOPLE Tom Cruise was stunned by the barrage of criticism he received after his infamous couch-jumping interview with Oprah Winfrey but admits he could have "handled things better," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor came under fire after his bizarre appearance on the daily talk show in 2005, as he jumped up and down on the sofa,

declaring his love for new girlfriend Katie Holmes.

A whirlwind of bad press erupted following the incident, especially surrounding his links to the controversial Scientology faith and his comments against actress Brooke Shields' decision to take medication to battle her post-natal depression.

Cruise admits to

Britain's Daily Mirror that his behaviour was bordering on erratic, and that he didn't "handle" the situations he found himself in with enough control.

"There are things that I could have done better. I could have handled things better," he says.

However, Cruise insists the negative press made their relationship stronger.

"Going through that stuff is not pleasant, and I think it hit an extreme, but Kate's a very sure and confident and strong woman. She gets it, you know." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



GETTY IMAGES

Dogs before men in Bosworth's bed

PEOPLE Actress Kate Bosworth would rather kick a man out of bed than disturb her beloved pooch Lila at night, imdb.com reports.

"My boyfriend found that odd ... (But) the dog will stay in the bed before the man will," she said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Love talks weight battle

HEALTH Courtney Love wanted to have a gastric band fitted, but was refused by doctors, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The former Hole singer, who recently lost a dramatic amount of weight, prompting surgery rumours, admits she was keen to undergo the procedure after be-

coming depressed about her ballooning weight.

"Baby, if I could get a gastric band I would! I've heard it's a lot of vomiting and a pain in the a—, but it's still easier than a diet."

Love confesses she was turned down for the procedure, but went on to try liposuction on her stomach after that: "It was horrible and it didn't work."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



No, Naomi's not getting married

MARRIAGE Naomi Campbell's representative has dismissed reports she's to wed her boyfriend, Vladimir Doronin, in a secret December ceremony in Russia, imdb.com reports.

Campbell sparked rumours of an engagement after she was pictured at a Moscow party sporting a large emerald sparkler on her ring finger.

British tabloids are now claiming

Campbell is planning a small, low-key wedding, after reportedly inviting close friends and family to join the couple for a special Christmas vacation.

"Naomi asked them to save the date and be prepared to travel to Russia," a source tells the Sunday Mirror. "She's keeping tight-lipped about exactly what is happening — and has sworn everyone to secrecy."

Campbell's spokesman has denied the claims, saying, "She has no plans to be in Russia at that time."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Bloom denies engagement

RELATIONSHIPS Orlando Bloom and his girlfriend Miranda Kerr have denied they are engaged following a flurry of rumours about an imminent wedding, imdb.com reports.

The actor was reported to have proposed to the model before jetting off on a romantic break in Venice last week.

But a representative for Kerr has refuted the claims, insisting the couple aren't planning on

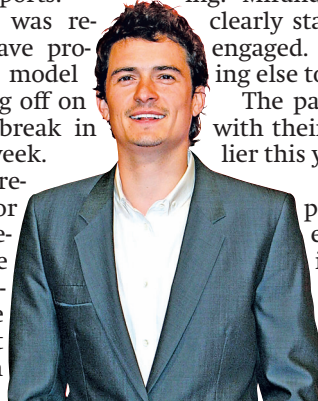
walking down the aisle any time soon.

"These rumours are not true," the rep tells People.com. "The story is completely false and misleading. Miranda herself has clearly stated she is not engaged. There is nothing else to be said."

The pair went public with their romance earlier this year.

Bloom has previously dated stars including Kate Bosworth and Kirsten Dunst.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Can't believe I was fat: Lake

PEOPLE Ricki Lake has trimmed 140 lbs. from her all-time top weight of 270 pounds — and says she is holding steady, People.com reports.

"I can't believe I was a fat person for most of my life," the former talk show host said. "I didn't have surgery and I worked hard. There's no secret. I'm active. I watch what I eat."

But she's certainly not immune to the pressure to stay thin.

"According to Hollywood standards, I'm not a thin girl," said the mom of two boys. "I don't want to perpetuate that obsession but yet I am also guilty of wanting ... to lose weight."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



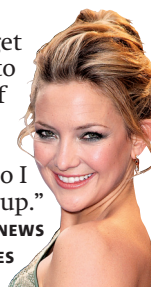
Hudson once 'stalked' a crush

DATING Kate Hudson once "stalked" a man she was desperate to date, and even recruited her friends to help her track the unwitting suitor down, imdb.com reports.

The actress confesses she was so obsessed with an unnamed bachelor, she tried to manipulate meetings in the hope he would ask her out.

She doesn't reveal if her tactics worked, but admits, "I did go through this stalker phase. I was completely crazy about this one guy and used to drive by his house and get my friends to call me up if they saw him in a restaurant so I could show up."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Diaz avoided ex's new flame Biel?

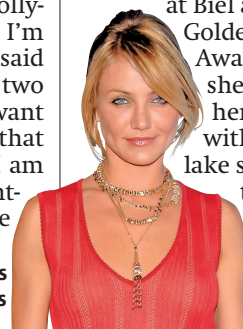
RELATIONSHIPS Cameron Diaz deliberately avoided Jessica Biel at the CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress rushed through the back entrance of Los Angeles' Kodak Theatre last week to avoid running into Biel who is dating Diaz's ex-boyfriend, singer Justin Timberlake.

"It was a careful tango to make sure they weren't backstage at the same time," a source said.

Diaz reportedly blew up at Biel at the 2007 Golden Globe Awards after she spotted her flirting with Timberlake soon after they had split.

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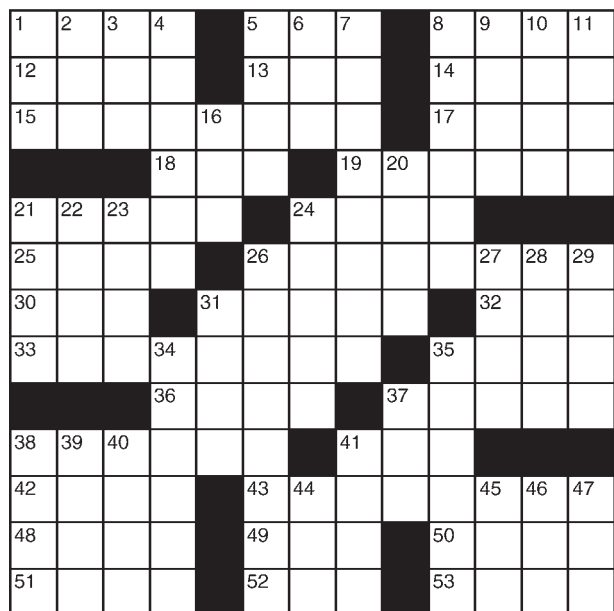


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For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

Take Five



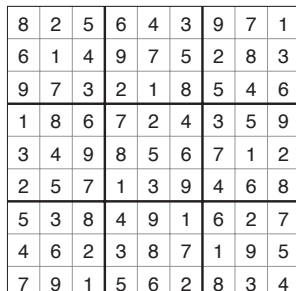
Crossword across

- 1 Eastern potentate (Var.)
- 5 Snoop Dogg's genre
- 8 Lend a hand
- 12 Protuberance
- 13 Chicken-king link
- 14 October birthstone
- 15 Seeker of an honest man
- 17 Spanish artist Joan
- 18 Ovum
- 19 Mucilaginous
- 21 California city
- 24 MGM mascot
- 25 Suggestion
- 26 God of wine
- 30 Toward the stern
- 31 Foolish one
- 32 Unclose, in verse
- 33 Bishops' jurisdictions
- 35 — gin fizz
- 36 Cupid's specialty
- 37 Fair of hair
- 38 Guru
- 41 "—, a deer, ..."
- 42 Last notice
- 43 Dry ice and others
- 48 Parker House, e.g.
- 49 Very long time
- 50 Long cut
- 51 Elbow counterpart
- 52 Geneticists' abbr.
- 53 Promote in a big way

Crossword down

- 1 Moreover
- 2 Miss Piggy's pronoun
- 3 Altar affirmative
- 4 Sovereign's sub
- 5 Pealed
- 6 Pub order
- 7 Soap that debuted in 1999
- 8 Grits makeup
- 9 Grand story
- 10 Caprice
- 11 Stratagem
- 16 Id counterpart
- 20 Broadway award
- 21 Actor Everett
- 22 Stereo setup
- 23 Grooving on
- 24 Eye cosmetic
- 26 Mess
- 27 Unaccompanied
- 28 "Once — a time"
- 29 Progeny
- 31 "Finding —"
- 34 Bulls, oxen, etc.
- 35 Santa's transport
- 37 Carton
- 38 Robin Williams TV role
- 39 Black, to poets
- 40 Cleopatra's river
- 41 Lady of Spain
- 44 Charged bit
- 45 Rotation duration
- 46 Kreskin's claim
- 47 That girl

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

- Under 13 minGenius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 minSmart
21-25 minNot bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Vegetable Primavera

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 oz (250 g) baby carrots
- 1 cup (250 mL) baby corn
- 8 oz (250 g) young thin green beans
- Salt and black pepper
- 8 oz (250 g) baby or small zucchini
- Small handful of fresh parsley or chervil
- 1 lb (500 g) fresh ricotta and spinach tortellini
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
- 1/2 lemon
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) whole-grain mustard

METHOD:

1. Put a large pot of water and a kettle on to boil. Preheat oven to 250°F (121°C).
2. Trim carrots, corn and beans, and cut into short lengths (if large). Plunge vegetables into pot of boiling water, add salt, bring back to boil, then simmer for 4–5 minutes, until slightly crisp.
3. Meanwhile, trim zucchini. Cut baby zucchini in half lengthwise, small ones into slices, and set aside. Chop parsley.
4. Lift cooked vegetables from boiling water with slotted

spoon, put into a bowl, and keep warm in the oven. Bring water back to a boil, adding more water from kettle if necessary. Add pasta and boil gently for 5–6 minutes.

5. Meanwhile, heat olive oil in a large pot. Add zucchini and fry, stirring continuously, for 2–3 minutes.

6. Squeeze lemon juice into zucchini, then add drained vegetables, mustard, and salt and pepper to taste. Toss gently.

7. Drain pasta and mix into the vegetables. Turn into a warmed serving dish, sprinkle parsley, and serve hot.

PER SERVING

537 calories, 25 g total fat, 13 g saturated fat, 52 g carbohydrate, 7 g fibre, 26 g protein

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Set out to achieve the goal of a lifetime. Make your way to higher ground. A boss may try to set annoying limitations.



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

You'll believe in miracles. An exceptional person says astonishing things. Someone doesn't understand what moves you.



LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

Be strongly principled and a problem will melt away. Hurt feelings result from a memory loss. Eliminate your resistance to good insights.



SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

Refuse to make decisions about your future. Remain calm when approached by an anxious female. Confirm that no mistakes have been made.



GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

You've procrastinated for too long. Refuse to talk until you know the facts. A woman will remind you of an obligation.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

A persistent dream is a reminder. You may travel in the wrong direction. It's only a matter of time until a woman gives in.



CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

Try to comfort a forlorn man. Break free of a repetitive relationship pattern. A difficult task must be mastered.



CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

Don't leave town for nostalgic reasons. You'll know whether a lie is being told. Save the money that you want to spend on treats.



LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23

Unfair accusations become a cat-and-mouse game. A wish will be granted. Your opinions will frighten someone.



AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

Don't reject an impossible idea. Conflicting signals make you briefly hesitate. Be sure of your feelings before sharing them.



VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

Move away from a disrespectful youth. An older person seeks freedom. A simple task becomes too strenuous to perform.



PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

A spiritual quest forces someone to change their behaviour. Clichés will annoy an old busybody. A lack of foresight wrecks plans.



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WORDY GURDY

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Get a prize of half a sawbuck (1)
2. Injured movie star Reynolds (1)
3. Coal pit's fork prongs (1)
4. Good-with-tools TV pundit Rooney (2)
5. Strew physical substance of the universe (2)
6. Broadway dancer Gwen's heavy woes (2)
7. On one's patellas handing out poker cards (2)

ANSWERS
1. WHIFFIN 2. HURT BURT 3. MINE'S TINES 4. HANDY ANDY
5. SCATTER MATTER 6. VERDONS BURDENS 7. KNEELING DEALING
12-2-08

This day in history

DEC. 2, 1930: Great Depression: U.S. President Herbert Hoover goes before the United States Congress and asks for a \$150 million US public works program to help generate jobs and stimulate the economy.

DEC. 2, 1954: Red Scare: The United States Senate votes 65 to 22 to condemn Joseph McCarthy for "conduct that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute."

DEC. 2, 1988: Benazir Bhutto is sworn in as Prime Minister of Pakistan, becoming the first woman to head the government of an Islam-dominated state.

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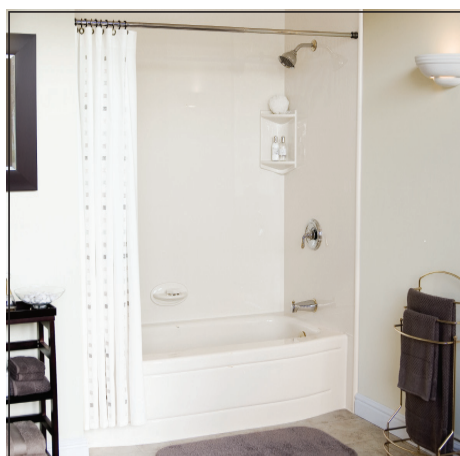
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